

**T**HE Committee of the Protestant Association in Newcastle and its environs, taking under consideration the unceasing pains taken by the enemies of the Protestant PETITION to divert people from subscribing it, openly asserting that Popery is not that system of bigotry, intolerance and persecution it was two centuries ago, and that Papists are suddenly converted from regicides, assassins and persecutors, to be the most charitable Christians in the world, to all who may differ from them in their religious creed,—have judged it proper, in order to refute such an allegation, to publish the following extracts from the form of excommunication pronounced at Rome on Maunday-Thurs'day.—To these they have subjoined, a genuine copy of a Popish excommunication, found amongst the papers of Philip Dunn, deceas'd, a Popish bishop, at his house in the county of Wicklow, pronounced by him in the year 1765, against Francis Freeman, one of his parishioners, who at that time embraced the Protestant religion. Faithfully translated from the Latin original, by Dr. Tooker.

They are firmly persuaded that, while the Charitable father of Christendom is discharging, at this season, annually, his papal thunder against Protestants, these of every denomination will cordially unite in imploring the God of mercy, in the language of inspiration. *Let them curse, but bless THOU! LORD, lay not this sin to their charge!*

The Title of the Maunday-Thurs'day Excommunication runs thus, "*The Excommunication and Anathematization of all Hereticks whatsoever, and their favourers, and Schismatics, or of those who violate the Ecclesiastical Liberty, or any ways infringe the contents of this Bull, which is wont to be published on Maunday-Thurs'day.*"

"SECT. 1. We excommunicate and anathematize, in the name of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, and by the authority of the blessed apostles Peter and Paul, and by our own, all Hussites, Wickliffites, Lutherans, Zuingians, Calvinists, Hugonots, Anabaptists, Trinitarians, and Apostates, from the Christian faith, and all other hereticks, by whatsoever name they are called, and of whatsoever sect they be: As also their adherents, receivers, favourers, and generally any defenders of them; together with all who without our authority, or that of the apostolick see, knowingly read, keep, print, or any ways, for any cause whatsoever, publicly or privately, on any pretext or colour, defend their books containing heresy, or treating of religion; as also schismatics, and those who withdraw themselves, or recede obstinately from the obedience of us, or the bishop of Rome for the time being."

"SECT. 2. Further, we excommunicate and anathematize all and singular, of whatsoever station, degree or condition they be; and interdict all universities, colleges and chapters, by whatsoever name they are called; who appeal from the orders or decrees of us, or the pope of Rome for the time being to a future general council; and those by whose aid and favour the appeal was made."

"SECT.

"SECT. 16. Also those who upon this account directly or indirectly hinder archbishops, bishops, and other superior and inferior prelates, and all other ordinary ecclesiastical judges whatsoever by any means, either by imprisoning or molesting their agents, proctors, domestics, kindred on both sides, or by any other way from exerting their ecclesiastical jurisdiction against any persons whatsoever, according as the canons and sacred ecclesiastical constitutions and decrees of general councils, and especially that of *Trent*, do appoint, as also those who after the sentence and decrees of the ordinaries themselves, or of those delegated by them, or by any other means eluding the judgment of the ecclesiastical court, have recourse to chanceries or other secular courts, and procure thence prohibitions and even penal mandates to be decreed against the said ordinaries and delegates and executed against them; also those who make and execute these decrees, or who give aid, counsel, countenance, or favour to them."

"SECT. 19. Further, we excommunicate and anathematize all and every magistrates and judges, notaries, scribes, executors, subexecutors, any ways intruding themselves in capital or criminal causes against ecclesiastical persons by processing, banishing, or apprehending them, or pronouncing or executing any sentences against them, without the special, particular and express licence of this holy apostolical See; also, those who extend such licences to persons or cases not expressed, or any other way unjustly abuse them; although the offenders should be counsellors, senators, presidents, chancellors, vice-chancellors, or intitled by any other name."

"SECT. 22. In fine, none may be absolved from the aforesaid censures by any other than by the Pope of *Rome*, unless he be at the point of death, nor even then, unless he give caution to stand to the commands of the church, and give satisfaction."

"SECT. 30. Let no man therefore infringe, or boldly and rashly oppose this our letter of excommunication, anathematization, interdict, innovation, innodation, declaration, protestation, abolition, revocation, commission, command and pleasure: but if any one shall presume to attempt it, let him know, that he shall incur the displeasure of Almighty God, and of his blessed apostles *Peter* and *Paul*."

Given at *Rome* from *St. Peter*, in the year of our Lord's incarnation, 1610, the 8th of *April*, in the fifth year of our popedom.

James Brambilla, *Mag. Curf.*

*Bishop Dunn's Excommunication.*

"By authority of God the Father Almighty, and the blessed virgin *Mary*, and of *St. Peter* and *St. Paul*, and all the holy saints, We excommunicate *Francis Freeman*, late of the county of *Dublin*, but now of *Jack-mill*, in the county of *Wicklow*, that in spite of God and *St. Peter*, and in spite of all the holy saints, and in spite of our most holy father the Pope (God's vicar on earth) and in spite of our right reverend father in God, *Philip Dunn*, our diocesan, and worshipful canons, who serve God daily; hath apostatized to a most damnable religion, full of heresy and blasphemy; excommunicated let him be, and delivered over to the devil, as a perpetual malefactor and schismatick: Accursed let

let him be in all cities, and in all towns, in fields, in ways, in yards, in houses, and in all other places, whether lying or rising, walking or running, leaning or standing, waking or sleeping, eating or drinking, or whatsoever thing he does: Besides we separate him from the threshold and all good prayers of the church; from the participation of the holy Jesus; from all sacraments, chapels, and altars; from the holy bread and holy water, from all the merit of God's holy priests and religious men, and from their cloysters and all pardons, privileges, grants and immunities, which all the holy popes have granted them; and we give him over utterly to the fiend; and let him quench his soul when dead in the pains of hell fire, as this candle is quenched and put out. And let us pray to God, our lady, *St. Peter* and *St. Paul*, that all the senses of his body may fail as now the light of this candle is gone; except he come in sight hereof, and openly confess his damnable heresy and blasphemy, and by repentance make amends as much as in him lies to God, our lady, *St. Peter*, and the worshipful company of this church; and as the staff of this holy cross now falls down, so may he, except he recants and repents."

Signed "*Philip Dunn*."

## Copy of the Protestant Petition.

To the Honorable the Commons of Great Britain in Parliament assembled.

The HUMBLE PETITION of His Majesty's loyal Protestant Subjects of the Town and County of NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE, and Enyirons,

*SHEWETH,*

**T**HAT your Petitioners, sensible of the many blessings which, as Protestants and Britons, they enjoy, cannot but be alarmed at an act passed in the eighteenth year of the reign of his present majesty, repealing certain penalties and disabilities imposed on the Papists by a statute enacted in the 11th and 12th years of William III. for further preventing the growth of Popery.

**T**HAT it is with the deepest concern they petition this Honorable House against a law, which has already received the royal assent; but as this act was so suddenly introduced, and so hastily passed, before the sense of the nation at large could be obtained, or any opposition formed against it, they are encouraged to hope this application will not prove too late for redress.

**T**HAT, notwithstanding the said act might be intended to repeal only detached parts of a single statute, your Petitioners conceive that it is an absolute repeal of the most essential clauses in that



that statute, and will operate, virtually, to render those acts against the Papists that are yet unrepealed, of no effect.

THAT your Petitioners apprehend that the Papists construe the late indulgence of parliament to be a toleration of Popery: as appears by the mass-houses and schools, which they are opening throughout the kingdom; and by their printing Popish books, and publicly exposing them to sale.

THAT Popish bishops, priests, jesuits and school-masters, now openly exercise their functions, whereby the people, especially the rising generation, are in danger of being led into superstition, idolatry and rebellion.

THAT Papists can now purchase what lands, tenements, or hereditaments they please, and inherit the same: That they will thereby influence our elections in future parliaments; and that this must tend to the destruction of our happy constitution.

THAT as Papists can now, by legal authority, confess the ecclesiastical, or spiritual jurisdiction of the Pope and see of Rome, which our laws, before the passing of the late act, have constantly disavowed; your Petitioners are very much alarmed, lest they should be involved in the guilt of perjury, when called to declare upon oath, "That no foreign prince, person, prelate, state or potentate, hath any jurisdiction or authority, ecclesiastical or spiritual, in this realm."

THAT Popery is in its nature intolerant, in a Protestant country seditious, and, in this kingdom, disaffected to the present reigning family; and therefore, to encourage it, tends to the subversion of the state, to dethrone the king, and to set aside the succession of the illustrious House of Hanover to the crown of this kingdom.

THAT, as England and Scotland are united, your Petitioners cannot but think it a hardship upon the people of England, to have Popery countenanced among them by law, when their brethren in Scotland have been officially assured, that no law shall be made to favour Popery in that country: And your Petitioners presume, that their peaceable deportment, and the constitutional steps they have taken to obtain redress, will meet with the approbation of this honorable house.

THAT your Petitioners do not desire to persecute the Papists; but to preserve themselves and their posterity from a repetition those rebellious and bloody scenes, which Popery, under pretence of promoting the interest of the church, has exhibited in these kingdoms.

WHEREFORE, to preserve the succession of the illustrious House of Hanover in the Protestant line, and to secure our civil and religious liberties, against the encroachments of Popery to the latest posterity, your Petitioners humbly pray that leave may be given to bring in a bill, to repeal the act lately passed in favour of the Papists.

AND your petitioners, as in duty bound, shall ever pray.



*This petition was signed by 766 persons and sent away on Tuesday The 4<sup>th</sup> of March 1780*

